

The Framingham Circuit

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President's Message

Is it me, or did this month seem short? What a great Flea Market! Thanks to Bev for doing such a great job as Flea Market czar. We have a couple of upgraded members, and all those from License in a Weekend have received calls. My congratulations to all those who took exams, and my thanks to all those who taught and gave exams.

The two HF antennas at the shack are down for repair. The parts for the beam have arrived, and, weather permitting, we'll have that back up by the time you read this. Time, wind and rain had taken their toll in missing hardware and enlarged holes, so some new parts were needed. The vertical, although I haven't looked at it too closely, will probably need the same kind of treatment. We got away for under \$100 on the beam, and the vertical will probably cost less. Jim, W1EQW, has suggested we look at a better quality beam that might be in the back corridor.

I got to visit a ham club while I was on vacation in the UK. I have a couple of pictures of their setup, which gave me some ideas. They have it much nicer than we do, as they have two rooms and better antennas. They have a nice operating bench that we might want to copy.

That's all for now, but please remember the Field Day planning meetings on alternate Wednesday nights.

Come and listen. You might find something you'd like to work on.

73,

Peter, KA1AXY

Thursday, May 6

This Month's Meeting

It's that time again. Mario and Guido (8PZA and 8MOR) will again give us their bi-annual update on DX doings from the isle of Pepperoni! Come and enjoy them. They've never failed to give a feast of an evening!

What I saw on my Spring Vacation

by Peter, KA1AXY

Cathy and I just returned from a week in London and Paris. We had a great time, visiting all the tourist traps, and one place that I especially wanted to see. It's called Bletchley Park, and it isn't in any tourist brochures. Bletchley Park is an old estate, about an hour northwest of London by train. Its importance lies in what was accomplished on the grounds of this old manor house during the Second World War.

Bletchley Park was the center of the British effort to break the German encrypted radio traffic. There are several good books about what they did and how they did it. The Germans used a electro-mechanical cipher machine which was "reverse engineered", first by three Polish cryptanalysts and then by the British. Having

detailed knowledge of how the machine worked, the British discovered its weaknesses, and, by detecting and exploiting sloppy German procedures, managed to read a large portion of German radio traffic throughout the war. Their efforts were aided by the Germans, who were so sure that their cipher machine was impregnable, that they continued to use it all through the war. Since the entire German military used the same machine, the British could read almost every message. The whole estate has been turned



KA1AXY in front of the mansion at Bletchley Park

Submitting Material to the Circuit

Material may be submitted for publication by sending it directly to the editor. This can be done by phone, by US Mail, or via the Internet (preferred). The deadline for each issue is the **Wednesday**, one week before the monthly meeting.

by phone

Home:
(508) 435-2055 (before 9:00PM please!)
College:
(508) 910-5296

by mail

Robert Hess, NTUVA
1 Cold Spring Brook Road
Hopkinton, MA 01748

by internet

ntuvs@att.net

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into a museum, and is in the process of trying to insure its long term survival. The group that operates the museum has set up exhibits describing the German encipherment process and the techniques the British used to break the code. Many prominent British mathematicians worked here during the war. Alan Turing, who is generally acknowledged as having laid the mathematical and logical foundations for the general purpose stored program computer, was one of the key contributors, but there were thousands of people who kept the

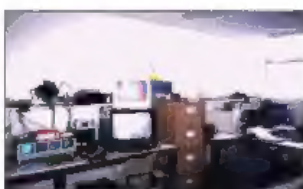


KA1AXY trying out a genuine German Enigma cipher machine at BP

assembly line process of codebreaking going throughout the war. All this was classified until the early seventies, when some of those involved wrote books about their experiences. Most of the details have since been declassified, giving a fascinating look into how radio intercepts, mathematics, engineering and lots of effort helped the Allies win the war in Europe. What is amazing to me is that the people involved kept silent about their tremendous accomplishments for thirty years, and even after the records were declassified, were reluctant to talk about what they had done. More information is on the Bletchley Park web site at <http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/ccs/bp/ark>. They also have a ham radio station, GB2BP. I got a tour, and they're on the air whenever the museum is open. I made sure FARA got into their visitors book.



HF room at GB2BP, Bletchley Park



VHF/UHF/ATV room at GB3BP, Bletchley Park.

READ THE CIRCUIT ONLINE... SAVES PAPER AND POSTAGE
email fara@fara.org and we'll set you up!

FraminghamARA-L@qth.net

The FARA email reflector is working well. It provides us with an easy way to reach all our members who have email. You have to sign up; it will reach you, though. See the instructions on the FARA web page, and remember that, once you sign up, anything you send must come from the address you signed up with. If you change email addresses, you won't be able to post until you repeat the signup process from your new address.

Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are as follows: (Make checks payable to FARA)
Regular FARA \$10
Student / Retired \$5
Repeater (voluntary) \$10

June Meeting moved to June 10th

The June Meeting, at which elections for officers for the 1999-2000 year will be held, will be held on June 10th (the second Thursday in June). This is so that we can support the Framingham Flag Day road race on June 3rd.

Flag Day Road Race volunteers needed!

FARA will be providing communications for the Flag Day Road Race on the evening of June 3rd, from 6 to 9 in the evening. Refreshments will be available. Please be sure your HT battery is charged. All are welcome and no experience is necessary. We need about 6 to 8 people. Contact Jim, W1EQW or Peter, KA1AXY if you'd like to help.

Flag Day Parade volunteers needed!

Bev, N1LOQ is coordinating the FARA volunteer effort for the Framingham Flag Day Parade on June 6. You're needed (no experience necessary) about 3 hours, starting at Noon. Bring a charged HT and a smile. The town really appreciates our help, so please contact Bev to sign up.

Field Day Planning Meetings

Field Day planning at the shack on alternate Wednesday evenings (5/12, 5/26, 6/9, 6/23). We still need people with large tents and help with transportation and set-up/tear-down.

Change of Address

If you would like to change the address on your Circuit label, please email fara@fara.org. Or, you can call Bev Lees at 508-626-2012.

LICENSE IN A WEEKEND-TEST RESULTS

SPRING 1999 CLASS

by Ed, W1NXC

<i>Anderson, Greg</i>	<i>Passed EI 2</i>	
<i>Cameron, Michael</i>	<i>Passed EI 2</i>	
<i>Cook, Ralph</i>	<i>Tech</i>	<i>KB1DXL</i>
<i>Dhoria, Prashant</i>	<i>Tech</i>	<i>KB1DXM</i>
<i>Dinsmore, Chris</i>	<i>Tech</i>	<i>KB1DXJ</i>
<i>Hess, Kerianne</i>	<i>Tech</i>	<i>KB1DZM</i>
<i>Horvath, Scott</i>	<i>Tech</i>	<i>KB1DXK</i>
<i>Kimbeck, Fred</i>	<i>Tech plus</i>	<i>KB1DXH</i>
<i>Martin, Thomas</i>	<i>Tech</i>	<i>KB1DXR</i>
<i>Martin, Tom II</i>	<i>Tech</i>	<i>KB1DXQ</i>
<i>McQuillan, Jon</i>	<i>Tech</i>	<i>KB1DXI</i>
<i>Nichols, Nathan</i>	<i>Passed EI 2</i>	
<i>Nichols, Amy</i>	<i>Tech</i>	<i>KB1DXN</i>
<i>Milton, Carl</i>	<i>Tech</i>	<i>KB1DXO</i>
<i>Pavalis, Dan</i>	<i>Tech</i>	<i>KB1DXP</i>
<i>Woodbury, Reed</i>	<i>Passed EI 2</i>	

A special thanks to the instructors, Dennis KE6DPL, Pete KA1AXY, Lee KA1USL, Jim W1EQW, and Karen K1KEB for their significant contribution to the program's success. Also contributing no less significantly were chief testing supervisor, Dick K1KTK, and administrative assistants, Bev N1LOO and Mary KA1HGL.

Note: Next class scheduled for Spring 2000

FARA Horizons

May 6: Monthly Meeting
May 12: Field Day Planning Meeting
May 24: Board Meeting
May 26: Field Day Planning Meeting
June 3: Flag Day Road Race
June 6: Flag Day Parade
June 9: Field Day Planning Meeting
June 10: Monthly Meeting
June 23: Field Day Planning Meeting
June 26-27: **Field Day**

New License?

The following sites are databases of the latest new licenses releases from the FCC.

ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/fccld.html>

QRZ: <http://www.qrz.com/directory.cgi>

WM7D: <http://www.wm7d.net/fcc/callsign.html>

UALR: <http://www.uak.edu/~hamradio/>

The Circuit is in need of QSL cards!!!

If you would like to share your favorite QSL card, which could be your own, with the club, please send it my way! A caption or story would be appreciated also.

Don't let not having a scanner keep you from sending in your favorite card. Many FARA Members have access to scanners, including Bob, W1RH.

QSL Card

Submitted by Leo, WA1HAM



This month's card comes to us from Leo, WA1HAM, formerly WA1ETX. Leo worked Israel in June of 1996, as WA1ETX, and received a QSL promoting the Holyland Award. Leo did not get the Holyland Award but did get a nice QSL card which promotes the award with a picture of the plaque. The contest takes place in the month of April, although a Web search did not show any activity in the last two years so the contest may not longer exist. To qualify for the plaque, North American stations must work 50 Holyland "areas" plus 19 regions. "Areas" and "regions" are not defined on the Web site which was last updated two years ago and with the addition of the new DXCC Entity of Palestine, the "areas" and "regions" have probably been redefined. The contest is sponsored by IARC, the Israel Amateur Radio Club.